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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/056,926 Confirmation No.: 4011
First Named Inventor: Justin F. Gaynor Filing Date: January 24, 2002
Group Art Unit: 2812 Examiner: Thanhha S. Pham
Atty. Docket No.: M-12018 US
Title: In-Situ Treatment Of Low-K Films With A Silylating Agent After Exposure To Oxidizing Environments
Assignee: Novellus Systems, Inc.

San Francisco, California
January 8, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to an office action mailed on November 25, 2002, which set a shortened statutory period for response that expired on December 25, 2002. A request for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and an examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election of one invention from what he identifies as Invention I: Claims 1-21, and Invention II: Claims 22-47. Invention I is elected with traverse on the grounds that, respectfully, it is believed that a search and an examination regarding the entire application can be made without serious burden. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement and a search and an examination as to the entire application are respectfully requested.

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